

COALITION FOR 4G IN AMERICA

March 18, 2010

Via Hand Delivery

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, IV
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation
United States Senate
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Coalition for 4G in America – MetroPCS Communications, Inc., Sprint Nextel Corporation, T-Mobile USA, Inc., Clearwire Corporation, Rural Telecommunications Group, Inc., Xanadoo Company, and Access Spectrum, LLC – write to express our strong support for several key initiatives set forth in the National Broadband Plan that the Federal Communications Commission recently submitted to Congress. These initiatives will promote new, competitive wireless broadband services for consumers and also provide the means for establishing a nationwide, interoperable broadband communications for public safety – both of which will promote the creation of jobs. In particular, we support the Commission's plan to:

- Quickly auction the Upper 700 MHz D Block for commercial use;
- Provide the public safety community with more competitive choice among commercial partners; and
- Propose that Congress authorize a federal grant program to support the deployment and operation of a nationwide public safety broadband network.

These initiatives provide the most effective framework available for ensuring the nation's first responders have access to state-of-the-art, interoperable broadband wireless communications in a timely fashion. We look forward to working with the Commission and public safety community to flesh out these initiatives. We also look forward to working with public safety to explore ways to give them more options in leveraging commercial networks and efficiencies. Leveraging commercial networks can reduce public safety equipment and handset costs, ensure continued technological innovation on par with commercial networks, and provide public safety with valuable infrastructure and network support. In addition, we support legislation to authorize appropriate federal grant programs to meet public safety broadband funding needs, including legislation that would allow the proceeds of the D Block auction to be used to help fund a public safety broadband network.

Aside from promoting vital public safety objectives, the Commission's Broadband Plan will help meet the exploding consumer demand for broadband services by quickly auctioning the D Block for commercial use. The commercial licensing of this spectrum, which has been

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, IV
March 18, 2010
Page 2

delayed for a number of years, will allow new, competitive wireless services to be deployed on this valuable spectrum, which in turn will promote economic growth and new jobs. As we have previously proposed to the Commission, we also support FCC action to combine the Upper 700 MHz A Block spectrum with the D Block so that this combined spectrum can be licensed in a 12 MHz block. This will promote efficiencies and the highest, best use of this valuable spectrum.

We commend the Commission for the leadership it has shown in developing the initiatives in the National Broadband Plan for promoting public safety communications and licensing the D Block for commercial use. We are committed to working with Congress, the Commission, and the public safety community to bring these plans to fruition.

Respectfully submitted,

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cc: The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison